

Application Serial No. 10/714,221
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2004

PATENT
Docket: CU-3452

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, Claims 2-3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended, and Claims 10-20 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Initially as to Claim 9, Claim 9 has been indicated as being **allowable** if the claim is written in independent form to include all limitations of the base Claim 1. There is no intervening claim. Accordingly, Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of Claim 1 and is now considered to be allowed.

Furthermore, the limitations of the original Claims 2-8 have been presented as new Claims 10-16, and these claims are also considered to be allowed at least since they depend from Claim 9, now allowed. An indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,589 (Koma) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0159012 (Yamada). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted in this paper.

In response, Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features embodied in FIG. 4 and described in the corresponding Specification page 8. None of the cited

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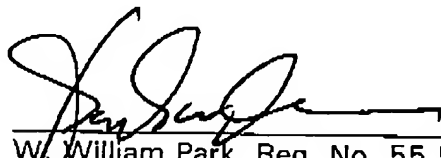
references teach or suggest the claimed features of Claim 1. Accordingly, an indication of allowance of Claims 1 and 4-8 is respectfully requested.

Further, Claim 17 and the dependent Claims 18-20 have been added to recite the features embodied in FIG. 5 and in the corresponding Specification page 9. Likewise, none of the cited references teach or suggest the claimed features of Claim 17. An indication of allowance of Claims 17-20 is also respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 4-20, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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